

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed June 1, 2005. Claims 1 and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 1-16 remain pending in the application. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103

Claim 15 stands rejected as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. US2001/0054046 ("Mikhailov") and Claims 1 and 16 are rejected as being obvious in light of United States Patent No. 6,853,994 ("Gupta"). Claims 2-14 were further rejected in light of Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Edition ("Courter").

Independent Claim 1 has been amended to recite:

A system for developing/customizing web-based collaborative applications employing visual-based programming, comprising:

a user system operable to display a set of browser-based component wizards to develop application component types and *customize existing definitions for previously developed application component types* for a web-based collaborative application;

a network, coupled to a set of processing components and the user system, operable to communicate data; and

the set of processing components, each processing component in the set for implementing functionality associated with a definition for each of the application component types, wherein the functionality exists prior to customization of the definition for each of the application component types, wherein the set of processing components comprises a form engine, and wherein the form engine comprises a business rule validator. [Emphasis Added].

Independent Claim 15 has been amended to recite:

A method of developing/customizing web-based collaborative applications employing visual-based programming, comprising:

displaying a set of browser-based component wizards to develop application component types for a web-based collaborative application; and

implementing functionality associated with a definition for each of the application component types, wherein the functionality exists prior to customization of the definition for each of the application component types; and

accessing and customizing the definition for at least one previously developed application component type using a corresponding component wizard.
[Emphasis Added].

Thus, according to Claim 1 and 15, the definition for an existing application component type can be customized by a corresponding wizard. Thus, for example, the “form wizard provides the capability to create new Forms or customize existing Forms.” See, ‘993 Application, page 15.

In contrast, the forms wizard of Mikhailov appears to be used for the creation of new forms, not for customizing definitions for previously developed forms. See, Mikhailov, FIGURE 7A, items 704 and 706. If a user wishes to update an existing form in Mikhailov, the user creates a new form definition using the forms wizard (i.e., as per steps 704 and 706) and publishes the form for submission (as per step 728). An existing form can be updated with the newly defined form by replacing the existing form or creating a change file. See, *id.* at FIGURE 6 and ¶¶51-52. It appears in either case that the existing form definition itself is not edited. It is either replaced or changes are implemented through a change file. Thus, the fact that a user may design their forms using a forms wizard does not mean that the user can use the forms wizard to customize definitions for already existing forms. See, *id.* at ¶34.

After reviewing the portions of Mikhailov cited by the Examiner, Applicant cannot find a reference to customizing already existing form definitions using the forms wizard. Gupta and Courter do not appear to make for this deficiency in Mikhailov. If the Examiner disagrees, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner point out where this feature of the present invention can be found or allow Claims 1 and 15 and the respective dependent claims.

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully

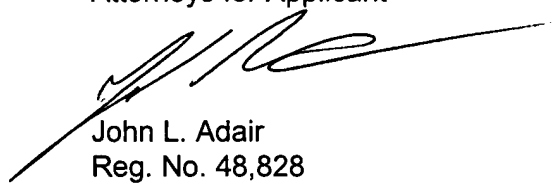
requests full allowance of Claims 1-16. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

An extension of two (2) months is requested and a Notification of Extension of Time Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 with the appropriate fee is enclosed herewith.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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